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Here we have a good selection of articles. First time contributor Ian Fenn offers insight into the ever popular Maria Theresa thaler and includes some wonderful pictures. Members Robert Ronus and Chris Carson each present on a 17th century issue which date only 14 years apart. Robert writes about a medal from Upper Austria and Chris on an English token. Your editor attempted to organize the subject of cob cuartillos from Colombia into a stand-alone article. Scattered though the bulletin are various quizzes for your amusement. I hope you enjoy your NI bulletin and visit the NI website to read it in color. <http://numis.org>

Herman

NI

Titus - The Opening of the Coliseum

CNG

For the Romans, the elephant was representative of many different things. Its African origins made it a logical symbol of Africa. Consequently, the personification of Africa was usually represented wearing an elephant's skin headdress. Its size, strength, and seemingly impervious hide also made it a natural symbol of power, and it appears in that connection on several Republican denarii, including those of Julius Caesar. Because of its longevity, the elephant was a symbol of eternity. As such, elephants were often employed in processions involving cult statues of deities. The issues of Divus Augustus and Divus Vespasian both show their cult statues being conveyed by such animals.

Continued on p. 105...

A Guide to the 1780 Maria Theresa Thaler

Ian Fenn

A pet peeve of mine is the sale of old worn modern restrike 1780 Maria Theresa thalers where the term “original” is used or worse the seller declares “not a restrike.” I hope this article goes some way to informing fellow collectors of the simplest identification features of original, early restrike and modern restrike 1780 Maria Theresa thalers.

Introduction

Walk into nearly any coin store around the world, or peruse the stands in coin shows across the globe, and there is one foreign coin you will invariably find; The Austrian 1780 Maria Theresa Thaler (MTT). You can even walk into the Vienna mint shop today and purchase an example that was possibly struck only a few months ago. Likely 95% or more of MTT seen in coin fairs, shops, and on eBay are modern restrikes. The remaining 5% are coins of significant numismatic value. Only a few collectors and dealers actually have the knowledge to distinguish 1780 MTT rarities from bullion coins which results in the possibility to “cherry pick” rare varieties for little more than the value of the silver contained within the coin. Often MTTs are simply described as being a “modern restrike,” an “early restrike,” or “original.” Despite the frequent use of those designations, there is apparently no authoritative definition for those terms. This article provides the information that enables an MTT novice to quickly assess an MTT without having to become an MTT expert.

Background

In early 1781 the Holy Roman Empire’s Hofkammer (Exchequer) transmitted the Imperial edicts that permitted the re-striking of the MTT for commercial purposes. Since that time, the coin has out-lived two empires (the Holy Roman Empire, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire) and a Republic. Today it is still produced by the 2nd Austrian Republic. With poor, sometimes non-existent, early mintage records it is not possible to put a definite number to the total mintage. In the past declarations of 800 million have been made, however the most reliable sources give us an estimate of 400 million. That may seem a large number but it is significantly less than that of the Morgan dollar (656,871,299) which, in comparison to the MTT, was produced over a much shorter period of time (1780 MTT: 235 years, Morgan Dollar: 43 years).

It is often stated that the 1780 MTT has been produced in exactly the same form since 1780, but with very little thought the experienced collector will know that this is impossible. In actuality there are at least 90 varieties of the 1780 MTT. These varieties are catalogued in the sometimes hard to find reference Walter Hafner’s “Lexicon of the 1780 Maria Theresa Thaler.” The unfamiliarity with that reference is perhaps one of the reasons why the three terms “Modern, Early and Original” are often used to attribute MTT. As intimated there is no consistent application of those terms and at times it seems a desert-sand-blasted 20th century strike will be described as an early restrike simply because its low grade condition suggests great age.

Original strikes

Original 1780 Maria Theresa thalers are coins that were actually struck in the year 1780: they are not restrikes. With the exception of Kremnitz mint, in the years 1775-79 the mintage numbers of the MTT were probably not more than 500,000 (estimated

from rarity) per year per mint. Kremnitz produced much greater numbers, perhaps because it was striking the coin for local use. The other mints struck the coin only when ordered by banks and traders who were using it in trade with the Levant. Demand for trade-MTT, in the years just prior to Maria Theresa's death was low and in the year of her death was probably even lower. Accordingly, original 1780 MTT from mints other than Kremnitz are very rare coins.



Original 1780 Maria Theresa Thaler from Kremnitz
The easiest of original strikes to obtain.

It seems likely, noting the orders for MTT that the Günzburg mint received following the Empress's death, that the banking houses were trying to replenish depleted stocks of the coin before it was "gone-forever". It was those orders that led to the 1781 edicts allowing the re-striking of the coin. Prior to the Empress's death (November 1780), only four mints produced Maria Theresa thalers: Kremnitz (Hungary), Vienna (Austria), Günzburg (Burgau) and Prague (Bohemia). As already outlined the Kremnitz strike is the most common, it is also the least like the coin we recognize today. From 1741-80 Kremnitz produced MTT with a Madonna and child reverse. The Kremnitz original MTT coin is easily obtained and has an indicative market value of US\$300-500. The 1780 struck coins from the other three mints are major rarities with the examples from Vienna mint, around 20-25 known coins, the next most common.

Vienna Mint Originals

There are approximately 20-25 known original Vienna mint 1780 Maria Theresa thalers. With a little knowledge they are easily distinguished from restrikes. Vienna mint MTT of this era had a reverse that included the mint signature IC – FA and the arms of Upper Austria in the fourth quadrant (bottom right) of the coat of arms. These features are also seen on early restrikes, the key difference is in the spelling of script on the reverse. During Maria Theresa's reign the abbreviation for Duchess of Austria "AUST DUX" (placed on the reverse) was spelt with two U's. On her death, her son became sole ruler and the spelling was changed to "AVST DUX" (a "V" and "U") for his coinage. When the Vienna mint commenced re-striking the 1780 MTT in early 1781 it was the "AVST DUX" spelling that was applied to the dies. For all 1780 MTT the following rule applies:

Any 1780 MTT with a “V” in “AVST” is a restrike

Although “AVST” indicates a restrike the spelling “AUST” does not universally guarantee an original. Günzburg (from 1781 to about 1797) and Kremnitz (1784) mints produced restrikes with “AUST”.

There are two confirmed varieties of Vienna mint originals. The more common variety has a plain brooch on the obverse, and the rarer (less than 5 known to exist) has a pearled brooch. Half thalers produced in 1780 also evidence this variation and, likewise, the pearled brooch half thaler is extremely rare. Half thalers were never restruck. Despite their rarity original Vienna mint MTT usually sell for around €1,200.00 (XF) equivalent, at the time of writing, to US\$1,400.00. It is not unheard off for examples to be confused with early restrikes and change hands for less than US\$300.00.



This 1780 half thaler models the commonest form of the 1780 original Vienna mint full thaler. Features to note: The pearl-less brooch on the obverse, and the spelling of “AUST” on the reverse. There are slight differences between the full thaler and this half thaler.



The rarest of the Vienna Mint original strikes (Variety 2) with a Pearled Brooch. As is typical of this variety the mint signature “IC-FA” is very poorly struck

Günzburg Original Strike

The Günzburg coin is one of considerable importance as it is the direct ancestor of the modern restrike. Until May 2012 that original strike was theoretical only. Although it had been known for 234 years that Günzburg had struck the coin, no one had documented what it looked like. It was known that it would have two long fine hair feathers framing the eagle's tail feather formation on the reverse (combined with a "U" in AUST). Those hair feathers are seen on the 1777-79 MTT but not, in the same form, on early or modern restrikes. In May 2012 an example of the theorized original was sold on eBay Germany for €1,550.00 (approx. US\$1,800.00) by a German auction house (Helios GmbH). Following that sale another was sold on eBay by an Eastern European seller, and a third was sold, again by Helios, via floor auction later that year. The prices achieved were all in the vicinity of US\$1,800.00. Since then no other examples have been observed in the market in Europe or North America. Dr Walter Hafner (author of the "Lexicon of the 1780 Maria Theresa Thaler") accepts that the coin pictured here (the first coin seen in the market) is an example of the original 1780 strike from the Günzburg mint.



The original (non-restrike) Günzburg mint 1780 Maria Theresa thaler.



The hair feathers that indicate an original strike are circled in the above photograph. Note there are restrikes that have similar, but not identical, hair feathers, those restrikes have the "AVST" spelling clearly indicating they are restrikes.

There are more Günzburg Originals' to be found

In 1976 there were only two known examples of the original Vienna mint strikings. Today that number has risen to approximately 20-25 coins. Based on the example of the Vienna mint originals it is likely that more examples of the Günzburg original will be discovered.

Günzburg mint retained the 'U' in "AUST" until around 1797. Accordingly a Günzburg 1780 MTT with that spelling is an early restrike unless it also bears the long fine hair feathers mentioned here.



This 1781-1785 Günzburg restrike is very much like the 1780 Original. It is obviously missing the fine hair feathers that are only found on the original.

Prague Mint Original Strike

Of the four mints, Kremnitz, Vienna, Günzburg and Prague, it is the originals from Prague that are the rarest. Only two examples are known; one is in the coin cabinet (but not on display) housed in the *Kunsthistorisches Museum* in Vienna. The other is in private hands and rumor holds that the last sale of that coin saw the equivalent of US\$25,000.00 change hands, however, that rumor is yet to be confirmed. Both European and American catalogues list this variety's value as less than US\$1,500. Excluding the Kremnitz "Madonna Thaler", this, the rarest of the originals, is the easiest to identify: on the reverse in the fourth quadrant of the coat of arms are the arms of Silesia and Moravia and the coin bears the reverse placed mint signature EvS – IK (Mint master :Paul Erdmann yon Schwingerschuh. Mint Warden: Ignatz Kendler).



The original Prague strike will bear a coat of arms like the one shown above, but with the mint signature EvS –IK. This photograph is of a 1767 Schlick Thaler, struck in Prague, a coin that bears a Maria Theresa thaler styled reverse (demonstrating the arms of Silesia and Moravia).

Early restrikes

Early restrikes have mint specific mint signatures and edge decorations.

It is natural to expect that we could define “early” by simply designating a date range. Unfortunately, questions about the current cataloguing of the restrike series (See December 2014 Numismatist pages 37- 41) makes using dates to separate “early” from “modern” problematic. Fortunately the coins themselves provide a suitable solution. The 18th century Holy Roman Empire thalers were produced under a number of different directives and accepted procedures. The result of these policies and procedures is that early restrikes have mint specific markings that are not found on the modern restrikes.

Early restrikes can be defined and identified by reversed placed mint signatures and/or mint specific edge markings: The basic identifiers are:

1. **Reverse placed mint signatures** (always accompanied by the arms of upper Austria in the fourth quadrant of the Coat of Arms):
 - a. Vienna (1781 to circa 1820): IC-FA (Mint master: Johann August von Cronberg. Mint Warden: Franz Aicherau)
 - b. Prague (1812-1820): PS-IK (Mint master: Paul Erdmann von Schwingerschuh. Mint Warden: Ignatz Kendler)
 - c. Kremnitz (1784 only): SK-PD (Mint master: Sigmund A Klemmer. Mint Warden: Paschal von Damiani) *Note: This MTT has a “U” in “AUST and on the obverse is the mint mark “B”*
 - d. Karlsburg (1788 to circa 1820): AH-GS (Mint master: A.J. Hammerschmidt. Mint Warden: G. Schickmayer)

- e. Günzburg (1792 to circa 1796): TS-IF (Mint master: **T**obias **S**chöbl. Mint Warden: **J**osef **F**aby) *Note: this variety of Günzburg MTT may have been a failed attempt to standardize the MTT design in accordance with the contemporary Vienna mint form.*
2. **Mint specific edge markings.** All Maria Theresa thalers have a raised lettered edge that spells out Maria Theresa's motto "IUSTITIA ET CLEMENTIA" (Justice and Clemency). Between the words of that motto each mint placed its own specific decorative devices. Günzburg coins with the obverse placed Mint Signature 'SF' (Mint master: Tobias **S**chöbl. Mint Warden: Josef **F**aby) evolved into the modern restrike which uses the same mint signature. For those unfamiliar with the series, the most reliable means of confirming an early Günzburg restrike is to examine the edge. The Günzburg early restrike edge will include a cross device. For the other mints knowing the mint specific edge decorations is a useful means of authentication. The following pictures illustrate the unique decorations used by each mint:



Edge decorations found on early restrike Maria Theresa Thalers

From top: Günzburg, Karlsburg, Kremnitz, Vienna (bottom). Note: the 1812-1820 Prague mint early restrikes used the Vienna mint edges (the tooling was produced by the Vienna Mint).

Modern Restrikes

The modern restrike is a hybrid coin. The obverse and reverse are modeled on the Günzburg form of the coin while the edge uses Vienna mint markings. The first confirmed production date of tooling for this modern form was in 1816 when the master dies for Venice were produced in Vienna. The modern restrike, as defined in this essay, has been produced by Venice, Milan, Vienna, Hall (a commemorative strike), Brussels, Birmingham Paris, London, Calcutta, Bombay, Rome, Utrecht and possibly a Russian mint.



The modern restrike 1780 Maria Theresa thaler



Modern restrike with edge design photographically added

Concluding remarks and Summary

The Maria Theresa Thaler is not an easy coin to research and, in particular, to write about. The coin from its inception as a trade coin in the 1750's has never been a mainstream collector coin and the result has been that valuable information about the coin has been lost. It is a unique coin in modern (post medieval) numismatic history and it is worth recording its history and collecting.

Why is it a hard coin to write about? Because when you write about the 1780 Maria Theresa Thaler you must expect that at some time, in the future, your words may be proved wrong, as happened to another writer, a young economic historian, who published a journal article on the MTT. That specialist, in his opening paragraphs correctly identified all the errors, regarding the MTT, which another well respected economic historian had made. Then that younger economic historian went on to produce a new set of errors about the 1780 MTT.

This introduction to the 1780 Maria Theresa thaler has been written with the above in mind. Collectors of Maria Theresa thalers will know that the definitions of early, and especially the modern restrike, offered here do not comfortably match the currently accepted cataloging. For example, the Vienna mint restrike bearing the mint signature IC-FA is currently accepted to have been produced until the 1850's. Recent file discoveries, though not directly contradicting this *zeitgeist*, do cast doubt on it. Furthermore during discussions with faculty members of the Vienna Universities Numismatic department a few years ago, the writer was informed that there were suspicions that the IC-FA variants may have stopped being produced by 1820 in favor of the modern restrike. It is hoped the reader will therefore appreciate the approach of using definitions (for early and modern) that rely on typical coin features rather than a date range. The identification information here is the minimum required for identification, there are numerous other features that have not been covered. To recap and conclude:

1. An Original 1780 MTT is a coin that was struck in the year 1780.
2. An Early restrike will have a mint specific mint signature and edge markings (with the exception of Prague which used the Vienna mint edge markings).
3. A Modern Restrike will have Günzburg obverse and reverse faces, combined with a Vienna mint edge.

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Marc Antony and Lucius Antony // Marc Antony and Octavian
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Marc Antony and Lucius Antony AV Aureus. M. Cocceius Nerva, proquaestor pro praetore. Mint moving with M. Antony in the East, 41 BC. M·ANT·IMP·AVG VIR·R·P C·M·NERVA PRO Q·P, bare head of Marc Antony / L·ANTONIVS COS, bare head of Lucius Antony to right. Bahrfeldt 80 var. (III VIR); Sydenham 1184 var. (same); C 2 var. (same); Sear Imperators 245a; Calicó 111; Crawford 517/4b. 8.13g, 22mm, 12h. Extremely Fine. An extremely rare variant (only 6 specimens known) of an already extremely rare type; in exceptional condition for the issue.

Following the victory at Philippi over the Liberators Brutus and Cassius, Antony assumed direct control of the East. Ruling from Ephesus as a king in all but name, he consolidated Rome's hegemony in the East, receiving envoys from Rome's client kingdoms and intervening in their dynastic affairs, extracting enormous financial 'gifts' from them in the process. Meanwhile Octavian had returned to the West, tasked with the difficult and unpopular job of assigning land grants to the demobilised legionaries. Since there was insufficient state-controlled land to fulfil the allotments to the veterans, Octavian was faced with the difficult choice of alienating the citizen-body by confiscating private land, or alienating many Roman soldiers who might back a military rebellion against the Triumvirate's rule. Octavian chose the former; as many as eighteen Roman towns through Italy were affected by the confiscations, with entire populations driven out. Exploiting the hostile sentiments of the Senate over the issue of the land grants, Antony's wife Fulvia schemed with Antony's younger brother Lucius, who was consul that year. Together they encouraged the Senate to oppose Octavian's land policies; Fulvia it seems hoped to delay the land settlements until Antony returned to Rome, so that he could share credit and the gratitude of the soldiers. The conflict between Octavian and Fulvia caused great political and social unrest throughout Italy. Tensions escalated into open war when Octavian divorced Clodia Pulchra, Fulvia's daughter from her first husband. Together Fulvia and Lucius raised an army to oppose Octavian militarily. They raised eight legions and held Rome for a brief time before being forced to retreat to Perugia. Lucius had expected that his brother's legions in Gaul would come to their aid, but Antony, facing the grave political embarrassment caused by Fulvia's actions, gave no instructions to his legions. Octavian laid siege to the city, eventually causing it to surrender out of starvation. While Octavian pardoned Lucius for his role in the war and even granted him the governorship of Spain, Fulvia was exiled along with her children to Sicily in

Greece. Struck in early 41 BC prior to Lucius and Fulvia taking up arms against Octavian, this extremely rare aureus type, which was accompanied by a significant issue of denarii, is evidence of Antony's pride at his younger brother's assumption of the consulship. With permission from Roma Numismatics Ltd.: Auction IX (22 March 2015), lot 572.

Marc Antony and Octavian



Marc Antony and Octavian AV Aureus. M. Barbatius Pollio, quaestor pro praetore. Mint moving with Antony (Ephesus?), spring – summer 42 BC. M·ANT·IMP·AVG·III·VIR·R·P·C·M·BARBAT·Q·P, bare head of M. Antony right / CAESAR·IMP·PONT·III·VIR·R·P·C, bare head of Octavian right. Babelon Antonia 50 and Barbatia 1; C. 7; Bahrfeldt 77; Sydenham 1180; Sear Imperators 242; Calicó 109; Crawford 517/1a. 8.15g, 21mm, 3h. Near Extremely Fine, very well preserved for the type. Rare. With permission from Roma Numismatics Ltd.: Auction IX (22 March 2015), lot 569.



Marc Antony and Octavian AR Denarius. M. Barbatius Pollio, quaestor pro praetore. Military mint moving with Antony (Ephesus?), 41 BC. M·ANT·IMP·AVG·III·VIR·R·P·C·M·BARBAT·Q·P, bare head of Marc Antony right / CAESAR·IMP·PONT·III·VIR·R·P·C, bare head of Octavian right, with slight beard, right. Sear 243; Crawford 517/2; Sydenham 1181. 3.82g, 18mm, 1h. Extremely Fine. Ex A. Tkalec, 27 October 2011, 156. With permission from Roma Numismatics Ltd.: Auction IX (22 March 2015), lot 570.

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Identification of Silver Cob Cuartillos from Santa Fe and Cartagena
Herman Blanton, NI #LM115
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Introduction

Santa Fe and its branch office at Cartagena produced hand hammered cob (or *macuquina*) coinage upon a 1620 authorization from King Philip III. Santa Fe was the principal mint but the founder of the mint, Alonso Turrillo de Yebra, preferred Cartagena where we find most of his personal involvement in mint related activities. Cartagena produced coins in two distinct time periods: 1621-22 and again in 1625-35. An unrelated and illegal mint operated for some weeks in 1655. Santa Fe opened in 1627 and continued to produce cobs as late as 1756. If Santa Fe produced coins in 1622 I believe the coins would be indistinguishable from those made at Cartagena that same year. The mint authorization specified cuartillos made of enriched billon (see Restrepo M11 for coin illustration) so originally there was no need for silver cuartillos. In 1625 a new coin called *plata baja* (low silver) was ordered as a substitute for enriched billon but this coin ended in 1626 with a general recall. It is only after the *plata baja* recall that the mint would have issued replacement silver coins. The *plata baja* was in three values, 1/4 real (cuartillo), 1/2 real (medio) and 1 real (see Friede, especially documents 3, 35, 65 & 79 regarding enriched billon and *plata baja*). Therefore it is my opinion that silver cuartillos could have begun no earlier than 1626 at Cartagena and 1627 at Santa Fe.

This article is intended as an aid to numismatists, collectors and researchers for identifying and classifying hand hammered silver cob cuartillos; appendices A & B show images of castles and lions for reference. The cuartillos in silver were made with a specified mass of 67 reales per mark (268 cuartillos) and if we use 230.1232 grams for the mass of the mark (Barriga I:182) this calculates to 0.859 grams per piece and have a nominal diameter 10-11 mm. It is helpful to understand that individual punches (raised design) were made from matrices (sunken design) therefore many punches could be made from the same matrix and the punches would be the same albeit with small variation due to the nature of hand work.

Santa Fe

The output of silver production at Santa Fe was relatively low as can be appreciated when considering how few punches were used. The current state of knowledge does not allow for a comprehensive listing of punches therefore they are arranged here by style and not by unique identification, however, someday further differentiation may be possible. The appearance of the castles and lions on coins vary not only on punch condition which in turn is due to wear, corrosion, damage and repairs over the years but also by the depth and angle of punching into individual dies. The appearance on coins also varies due to the strike and evenness of the coin planchet (blank coin).

Most Santa Fe cob cuartillos have a simple design with a castle on one side and a lion on the other which represents the united kingdom of Castile & León. Numismatists seem naturally drawn to compare their cuartillos with eight reales attempting to classify them by year, assayer or time period, however, this practice is imprecise to say the least. I can't say that cuartillos exclusively used eight reales punches but it seems logical that they would have. The picture below from Ponterio Auction 133,

the Joe Lasser Collection, shows a cuartillo (lot 797) made with punches the same size as used on an eight reales (lot 762).



From my studies it is clear that punches and dies from the initial opening of the mint in 1627 were used for many years; in fact I've seen a 1694 two reales made with the lion punch that dates even further back, to the 1622 two reales of Cartagena [Blanton: unpublished monograph]. By the early 1690s many of these old punches, dies and presumably some of the other tools in the mint workshop must have worn out. During the 1690s we observe the use of both worn old style punches and new style punches; but there is at least one specimen that has ball tail lion from as early as 1628 paired with a castle that appeared on an eight reales of 1722. In general the quality of the silver coinage was low in the 1690s but the mint made improvements and by 1721 (after a long hiatus of any silver coin larger than a cuartillo) the silver coins are much improved. In general it is difficult to date cuartillos because punches and dies were used over very many years.



It is helpful when studying cob cuartillos to organize them into four groups. All references to Restrepo catalog numbers are from the 2012 edition.

Group SF1: [Catalog number Restrepo M14]

These are first generation punches used from the opening of the mint in 1627, through the transition from Habsburg Shield to the Columnar design in 1651 and on through the end of the century. In the final decade of the 17th century, shortly after 1690, there were some significant changes at the mint. In a letter dated November 8th, 1691 mint assayer García wrote that his health was failing and he nominated Captain Buenaventura de Arce to be his successor. This nomination was approved by the *Real Audiencia* on December 12th, 1691. The treasurer (owner) of the mint Joseph de Ricaurte died in 1695 and was immediately succeeded by his son and heir Joseph Salvador de Ricaurte. During this decade there must have been confusion or very lax quality control at the mint because among coins produced between 1692-1702 many errors are observed including backward dates and designs. Also during

this decade the early punches must have been significantly deteriorated as we begin to observe coins made from new punches which are assigned to Group SF2. This is a long period of time, about 75 years. Because the punches were used over a 75 year span it is not possible to date these cuartillos with certainty. With sufficient study it may be possible to narrow the date range for a specific cuartillo, for example by the amount of erosion evident in the punch with more erosion suggesting a later date. We observe these Group SF1 punches used on dated silver coins up to 1703 overlapping those in Group SF2. These early punches may also have been used on cuartillos made after 1703.

Group SF2: [Catalog number Restrepo M53]

This group used replacement punches introduced after about 1690 while the old early punches gradually disappeared. When these same punches are used on coins with the corded ring design they fall into Group SF3.

Group SF3: [Proposed catalog number Restrepo (future) M67]

In 1721 we observe a bold redesign of the silver coins most distinctively by the inclusion of corded rope rings. However the time period is not definitively set as commencing in 1721. With the exception of cuartillos no silver coins were made after 1703 until 1721, so there are none to observe, except cuartillos which may or may not have a corded design and are undated. It is possible that the corded design coincides with the establishment of the Viceroyalty of Nuevo Reino in 1717, but we just don't know. The corded design continued through the end of silver cob production; the final date currently known is 1742. Since the sum total of eight-reales known for Philip V (1700-1746 however dated coins in the name of Philip V appear consistently only after 1714) is only six specimens, it is understandable that there may be cuartillos without matching eight reales. Group SF3 includes only those cuartillos



Santa Fe 1 Real 1721 with corded rings

Heritage Auction 3024 lot 23631



Santa Fe 1/4 Real undated with corded rings

**Morton & Eden Auction 61
(Huntington Collection) lot 224**



using a corded ring or "wreath" periphery.

Group SF4:

The last "group" consists of one year only, 1755. It has a distinctive peripheral wreath made of three pointed leaves. This is the only silver cob struck under Ferdinand VI. Because the three leaf design is distinctive we can distinguish it from the corded wreath design which we attribute to Philip V.

Table 1 of Santa Fe cuartillos is constructed from silver coinage data in Barriga (III: 532-38). Barriga compiled the data from historical records but in many instances we know of dated coins that conflict with the data, e.g., 1627 one real and two-reales are known and even illustrated in Restrepo but the first listing in Barriga is 1628 (two-reales) and 1629 (one real). Furthermore, the dates in Barriga's data seem to be for the year of mint reports and not for actual production. Table 2 shows the silver coin production for the years 1702-1722. The cuartillos of this period made before 1721 may have used castles and lions not found on eight reales (1703 was the last year for eight reales until 1721). Also, the use of the corded ring periphery on cuartillos likely began after 1703 and may well have been before the first use on the higher denominations with the earliest we know of being a one real dated 1721. Because we know of 1721 dated specimens, the record in Barriga of "*no hubo acuñacion*" for 1721 probably means that the coins dated 1721 are recorded in the 1722 report. In light of these observations we ought to be open minded as to accuracy and completeness of the Barriga data.

1627	1691	1729
1649	1695	1731
1654	1704	1732
1655	1705	1733
1657	1707	1734
1660-64	1708	1736
1665	1716	1737
1666	1724	1739
1668	1726	1743-(48)
		1755

Table 1
Santa Fe Cuartillo Production
Years according to Barriga

Because of the small production of silver during the first two decades of the 18th century the data is more useful concerning cuartillos; see table 2.

After 1722 (III: 536-37) records production of cuartillos for ten of the years between 1723-1742. For the years 1743-48 (Barriga III: 538) all denominations of silver coins were produced but it is not clear if this is for 1743 only or for the six year period. Between 1749 and 1755 no silver coins were produced except cuartillos, in 1755 only, and I believe these are those with the distinctive leaf periphery.

Year	Marks (silver)	Denomination
Barriga	(I:122)	(III: 536)
1702	1332	8 reales
1703	1711	8 reales
1704	554	1/4 real
1705	1013	1/4 real
1706	none	
1707	517	1/4 real
1708	211	1/4 real
1709-14	no record	
1715	none	
1716	137	1/4 real
1717-20	no record	
1721	none	
1722	786	1, 4 & 8 reales

Table 2
Silver Production 1702-1722 according to
Barriga

Santa Fe Examples

Group SF1: 1627 to around 1690. Restrepo M14



**Five Stone Arch
Castle as M44-6**

Alexander Montaña



**Bushy Tail Lion
as M44-6**



**Tilted Arch Door
Castle as M44-6a**

Ponterio Auction 133 lot 797



**Ball Tailed Lion
as M44-6a**

A specimen with Five Stone Arch and Ball Tailed Lion combination is currently the lone cuartillo known to show an assayer mark. It has the letter “P” to the right of the castle (Sedwick Treasure Auction 4 lot 501). Though the specimen is reportedly from the 1715 fleet it ought to date 1627 because Barriga lists that as the only year for cuartillo production under assayer “P” (Pinto 1627-32).

Group SF2: around 1690-to? Restrepo M53



**Castle as M62-23
(1699-1703)**

Alexander Montaña



**Ball Tail Lion as
M44-6a**



**Castle as M76 (1721-42)
Unmatched Lion (with Crown)
Solid Ring around**

Cayón 2010 01 21 & 22 lot 3174



Another Group SF2 specimen. It has Philip V style castle and ball tail lion of Philip IV. It has a solid ring on obverse and reverse. The lion is M44-6a which appears as early as 1628. The castle is not yet observed on coins dated earlier than 1722. As the lion has the left hind leg twisted as on M62-23 and 24 (1702-03) it seems reasonable to tentatively date the coin

1703-1716 because even though the castle appears on 1722 dated coins the cuartillo is missing the corded wreath periphery. This coin illustrates how difficult it is to date the cuartillos. Image courtesy of Nicolas Liakópulos.

Group SF3: 1704-1743. Restrepo M67 (proposed)



Unusual and currently unique corded cuartillo with lion facing the opposite direction which makes it heraldically incorrect. Date range estimate 1704-08. See Blanton: 2013 for further details.

Primitive Corded Ring

Sedwick Treasure Auction 14 lot 754



Castle as M76
"C" Princess
Louisa specimen
8R (1722?). Door
broken on left
side.

Unmatched
lion (without
crown)

Corded Ring

**Ortiz Collection
Ex Baldwin's Auction 2010 09 28
lot 4016**

Group SF 4: 1755. Restrepo M91



Castle and Lion with three-leaved-wreath design periphery

Approximate Time Line by Group

Group 1: 1627-1690s then likely continued with uncertain end date

Group 2: 1690s forward with uncertain end date

Group 3: Began approximately 1704 then forward with uncertain end date

Group 4: 1755 only

1627	1690	1704	1743	1755
------	------	------	------	------

Cartagena

Cartagena was authorized as a branch mint of Santa Fe. It started production in 1621 (before Santa Fe) and continued into 1622. During this time the mint produced billon cuartillos cataloged by Restrepo as M11-1. The owner of the mint, Alonso Turrillo de Yebra, transported the entire mint operation from Cartagena to Santa Fe in 1622. After a brief stay Turrillo transported the mint back to Cartagena but did not reopen it and he himself departed that same year to Spain to present his grievances to the king concerning interference by local authorities. If coins were produced in Santa Fe in 1622 they would be indistinguishable from those produced at Cartagena as the same tools and equipment would have been used.

Turrillo returned to Cartagena in 1625 and commenced minting coins that same year. A new coin called *plata baja* (meaning low silver) was introduced in denominations of 1/4, 1/2 and 1 real. Soon after introduction the *plata baja* coins were recalled and ordered to be melted down. There is a currently unique half-real, cataloged as Restrepo M15-1, which I believe is a billon coin from 1622 despite the fact that only billon cuartillos were authorized for that year. Some believe this specimen may in fact be one of the unknown *plata baja* coins. Production of silver coins likely began in Cartagena in 1626.

Cartagena cuartillos can be arranged into three basic groups however the silver cuartillos are arranged in two groups, Group C1 and C2, which are preceded by enriched billon and *plata baja* cuartillos.

Predecessors to silver cuartillos: Enriched Billon and Plata Baja

Cartagena was authorized to produce two special types, *vellon-rico* (enriched-billon) and *plata-baja* (low-silver). These coins are significantly larger than silver cuartillos and had a specified mass of 100 pieces per mark which is approximately 2.3 grams per coin. Reference Restrepo M11 for *vellon-rico*. The *plata baja* was authorized in 1625, however due to public complaints production ceased in 1626 and the coins recalled. The *plata baja* mass is the same as the *vellon-rico* and the design may be identical too but since no specimens have been identified this is unconfirmed. These predecessor coins are distinctly different than silver cuartillos due to a greatly higher mass (2.3 grams compared with 0.859 grams) and a unique design therefore there is no need to identify by comparing with contemporary eight reales. The *vellon-rico* must be 1621-22 and *plata-baja* must be 1625-26 but there is some opinion that the *plata-baja* was struck using *vellon-rico* dies so the stamped date would be 1621-22. For further information see Blanton (2008: Half-Real Coins of Cartagena of the Indies) and Heritage (2014).

Group C1: [Catalog number Restrepo M13]

It seems likely that production of silver cuartillos would have commenced in Cartagena only after the *plata-baja* production ceased in 1626 and must have stopped in 1635 which is the year the mint closed. The castle and lion punches used on the silver cuartillos would be those from 1621-22 and 1626-35 but the cuartillos themselves should date between 1626 and 1635 because before 1626 all cuartillos ought to have been *enriched-billon* or *plata-baja*.

Group C2: [Proposed catalog number Restrepo (future) M13A]

An illegal mint opened in Cartagena in 1655 and operated for some weeks. No cuartillos from this illegal mint have been identified but I assume that they would use the same castle and lion punches as the eight reales. With the Cartagena 1655 images in this article it is possible that one or more cuartillos may be discovered.

**Cartagena Example
Group C1 (1626-35)**



Restrepo M13

If the reader reviews the large variety of Cartagena punches in appendix B it should become clear that there is much yet to be discovered and learned about Cartagena cuartillos.

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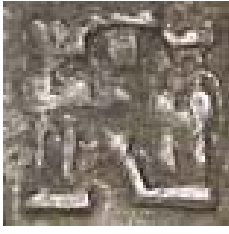

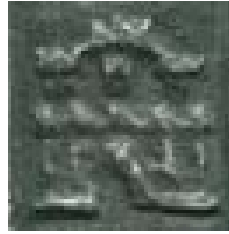

Appendices

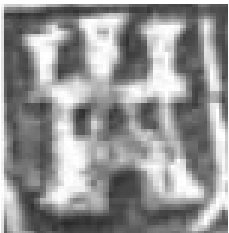
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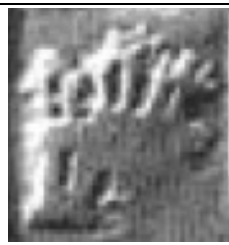
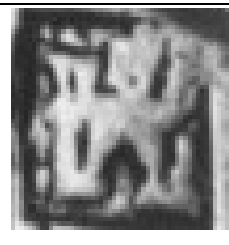


Appendix A: Punches observed on eight reales of Santa Fe


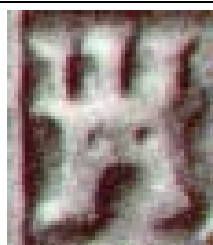
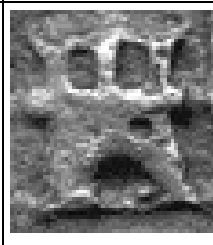


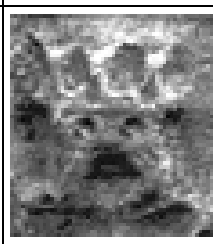
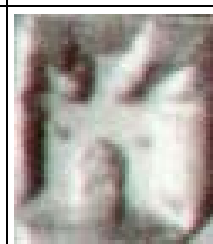

Castle punches observed on Santa Fe eight reales

Santa Fe: Castle style as M44-6 Full Wide Castle / 5 Stone Arch. Long used at Santa Fe, observed on eight reales dated 1627-1693.		
A	B	C
		
		
A) Santa Fe 8R 1627 NRP: Restrepo M44-6. B) Santa Fe 8R 1665 NoR PoRS: Aureo 242 lot 127, 2012-03-08. C) Santa Fe 8R 1693 VA: Restrepo M62-21.		







Santa Fe: Castle style as M44-6a Tilted Arch Door. Observed on eight reales dated 1628-1654 but later dates are possible. The most frequently observed castle on Santa Fe cuartillos.			
A	B	C	D
			
A) Santa Fe (NRP 1627-32): Aureo, 2012-07-04, lot 355. B) Santa Fe (NR)P 1628: Restrepo M44-6a, ex: Swiss Bank 27 (Ortiz collection) 1991-01-24, lot 75; Ponterio 133 (Lasser collection) lot 763. C) Santa Fe 1651 NoR PoRMS: Sedwick TA6, 2009-10-15, lot 384. D) 1651 Santa Fe NR Ramos PoRMS: Ponterio sale 150, 2009-08-08, lot 9310.			

Santa Fe: Castle style as M62-19 Three Window Castle. Thus far observed only on 8R ARCE 1692.
A

A) Santa Fe ARCE 1692 M62-19.

Santa Fe: Castle style as M62-23 Tall Window Castle. Observed on Charles II Santa Fe 8R dated 1702/1699 and 1703.		
A	B	C
		
		
A) 1702/1699 ARCE Sedwick TA13 lot 1357. B) 1702/1699 ARCE Restrepo M62-23, British Museum Specimen. C) 1703 ARCE Restrepo M62-24 1703 Santa Fe 8R.		

Santa Fe: Castle styles of Philip V as M76 Castles of 17xx-43. There are two specimens known for each year 1721, 1722 and 1742 eight reales: six specimens total.				
A	B	C	D	E
				
				
A) Santa Fe NoR Arce 1721: Heritage auction 3009, 2010-04-23, lot 21216. Restrepo M76-3. B) Santa Fe NoR ARCE 1721: Elizondo 1971 plate 2 C) Santa Fe NoR SAN 1722: Salvaged from the Princess Louisa (1743). D) Santa Fe NoR SAN 1722: Elizondo 1971 plate 2 and Restrepo M76-6. E) Santa Fe NoR FM 1742: Restrepo M76-9				

Lion punches observed on Santa Fe eight reales

Santa Fe: Lion style as M44-6 Fancy Tailed Lion. Frequently paired with Full Wide Castle / 5 Stone Arch.		
A	B	C
		
		
<p>A) Santa Fe 8R 1627 NR P: Restrepo M44-6 (Tail loop not completely struck up).</p> <p>B) Santa Fe 8R 1665 NoR PoRS: Aureo 242-127, 2012-03-08.</p> <p>C) Santa Fe 8R 1693 NR VA: Restrepo M62-21</p>		














Quiz 1







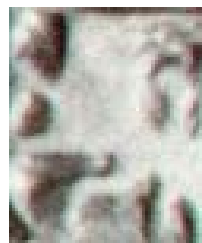
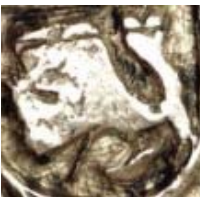
Bob Fritsch, NI # LM134

Here are some questions about medals, tokens, scrip, phone cards and exnumia.

1. We often see the term Speilmark on tokens. What does it mean?
2. Who wrote the catalogs on Napoleonic Medals (*Médallier Napoléon le Grand*)?
3. What items were used as money in French Canada from 1685 to 1757?
4. This man almost succeeded in paying off Louis XIV's debt through The Mississippi System among others. Unfortunately, the company collapsed before the objective could be reached and he was subject to several satirical medals in the 1700s. John W. Adams wrote a book about him and the medals.



Santa Fe: Lion style as M44-6a, M62-23 & 24 Ball Tailed Lion. Frequently paired with Tilted Arch Door Castle. Observed on eight reales from 1628-1703. The late lions were made from worn punches.				
A	B	C	D	E
				
F	G			
				
				
<p>A) Santa Fe (NRP 1627-32): Aureo, 2012-07-04, lot 355.</p> <p>B) Santa Fe (NR)P 1628: Restrepo M44-6a, ex: Swiss Bank 27 (Ortiz collection) 1991-01-24, lot 75; Ponterio 133 (Lasser collection) lot 763.</p> <p>C) Santa Fe 1651 NoR PoRMS: Sedwick TA6, 2009-10-15, lot 384.</p> <p>D) 1651 Santa Fe NR Ramos PoRMS: Ponterio sale 150, 2009-08-08, lot 9310.</p> <p>E) Santa Fe (1703) Restrepo M62-24.</p> <p>F) 1702/1699 ARCE Sedwick TA13 lot 1357.</p> <p>G) 1702/1699 Restrepo M62-23, British Museum Specimen.</p>				






Santa Fe: Lion style as M62-19 Slender Lion. Thus far observed on one specimen only; paired with Three Window Castle 8R ARCE 1692.	
A	A
	
A) Santa Fe ARCE 1692 M62-19.	




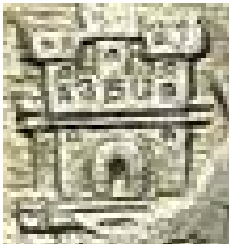



Santa Fe: Lion styles of Philip V as M76 Lions of Philip V. There are two specimens known for each year 1721, 1722 and 1742 eight reales: six specimens total.				
A	B	C	D	E
				
				
<p>A) Santa Fe NoR Arce 1721: Heritage auction 3009, 2010-04-23, lot 21216. Notice the almost square space between the two hind legs.</p> <p>B) Santa Fe NoR ARCE 1721: Elizondo 1971 plate 2. Notice the almost square space between the two hind legs.</p> <p>C) Santa Fe NoR SAN 1722: Salvaged from the Louisa (1743). Notice the almost square space between the two hind legs.</p> <p>D) Santa Fe NoR SAN 1722: Elizondo 1971 plate 2 and Restrepo M76-6.</p> <p>E) Santa Fe NoR FM 1742: Restrepo M76-9. A like style lion is found on Philip V 8E of 1744 Restrepo M84-4.</p>				

Appendix B: Punches observed on eight reales of Cartagena

Castle punches observed on Cartagena eight reales

Cartagena: Castle style as M41 & M42 Cartagena First Castles. Punches vary at door arch. All three towers have 2 windows each.	
A	B
	
A) Ca. 1621-22 Cartagena RN assayer A. Sedwick TA6, 2009-10-15, lot 256. B) Ca. 1621-22 Cartagena RN assayer A. Sedwick TA8, 2010-10-21, lot 517.	

Cartagena: Castle style as M45-1 and M45-6 Cartagena Second Castle. Very similar to castle of 1621-22. It seems these punches were used at the reopened mint at Cartagena. Ground floor is shorter and has four distinct windows, some, but not all, punch(es) have center tower with broken window on left side which makes the turret appear offset. The left tower and right towers have single window each. A distinction on some turrets are sharp points.		
A		B
		
		
A) 1626 Cartagena RN. Private collection Ex Delorme & Collin du Bocage 2011-05-26, lot 301. Restrepo M45-1. B) (1626) "Numismatic Commentary and Auction, Treasures of the Conception" Christensen, Henry, Inc., 1982-05-17, lot 213. Restrepo M45-6.		

Cartagena: Castle style as M45-10 Arched Door / Double Plane Castle. All windows are round. Full arch door. Double plane floor and double plane “roof”.			
A	B	C	D
			
			
A) 1629 Cartagena NRE Ponterio 133 lot 764. Restrepo M45-10. B) Cartagena NRE. Private collection Ex Baldwin's, 2011-09-29, lot 1769. Same reverse as Restrepo M45-10. C) Close up image B showing double plane. D) ca. 1629-30 Cartagena NR E Ponterio sale 150, 2009-08-08, lot 9309.			










Quiz 2

Bob Fritsch, NI # LM134

One of the most important features in Islamic Coinage is the date, since it is a different calendar and a different set of numbers. Take the AH dates listed below and convert them to AD (or CE as you will) dates. I used the 34th 20th Century SCWC, 5th 19th Century and Premier 21st Century, and used the converted dates in the actual listings as the Hejira years are out of sync with the Gregorian calendar.

1. 1327 + 6
2. ١٢٦٦ + ٩
3. 32nd year of the sultanate of Abdul Hamid II
4. Which item does not belong on this list? 1158, 1261 1303, 1444

Cartagena: Castle style as M45-15 (multiple varieties) Heavy Turret / seven stone arched door.			
A	B	C	D
			
			
<p>A) ca 1630-35 Cartagena CE. Private collection Ex Baldwin's NYINC, 2009-01-07, lot 601. Seven stone arch. Four pointed center turret castle.</p> <p>B) Cartagena Aureo Auction 262, 2014-09-18, lot 1189. Seven stone arch.</p> <p>C) Cartagena 1630 RN E Heritage Weekly World and Ancient Coin Auction 231437, 2014-09-11, lot 62162</p> <p>D) Cartagena 1630 RN E UBS 55 lot 4424</p>			




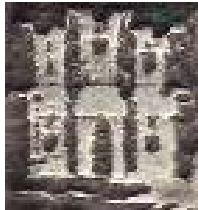




Quiz 3

Bob Fritsch, NI # LM134

Odd and Curious Money is our topic in this quiz. Here are some questions about non-round coins.

1. Motorcycles and guitars disguised as money have recently been issued by what country?
2. What country and several of its colonies issued square 5-cent coins (they were struck so the design was on the diagonal.)
3. What Pacific Island British Commonwealth nation issued coins that were triangular and segments of a circle?
4. Name at least three countries that have issued coins with scalloped edges.






Cartagena: Rectangular Door Castle as M45-11 (multiple varieties) Rectangular door and windows of various heights. The turrets resemble the “heavy turret” of M45-15 but reduced in size.				
A	B	C	D	E
				
				
<p>A) 1626-30 Cartagena RN E Aureo, 2011-03-17, lot 1196.</p> <p>B) 1630 Cartagena RN E Sedwick TA6, 2009-10-15, lot 1164. Short towers</p> <p>C) Restrepo M45-11</p> <p>D) 162(9) Cartagena RN E (Jacques St Arnaud), 2011-06-12. Image credit: Michelle Deschênes.</p> <p>E) Some specimens show what appear to have two tall windows but this is actually the clear space between the towers. Upper image: Restrepo M45-3, lower image Ponterio Auction 133 lot 765.</p>				



Picture Quiz A



Born 1783 – Died 1855
 Cameo and gem engraver
 Chief Medallist at London Mint
 Created the popular St. George & Dragon
 used many times on sovereigns.
 Designed the “Waterloo Medal”






Cartagena: 1655 Castle M48		
Five stone arch with clear perimeter. Ground floor window at edge left and right.		
A	B	C
		
		
<p>A) 1655 Cartagena C S Hans Schulman (Maravillas), 1974-12-02, lot 451Cartagena Aureo Auction 262, 2014-09-18, lot 1189. Seven stone arch.</p> <p>B) 1655 Cartagena C S Sedwick TA14, 2013-10-30, lot 458. Door has a distinctly clear perimeter as traced in lower image.</p> <p>C) 1655 Cartagena C S Cayon, 2012-02-04, lot 275.</p>		



Picture Quiz B



Lion punches observed on Cartagena eight reales

Cartagena: First Lion as M41, M42, M45-1, M45-6 The lion punch used during first period 1621-22 and at second period 1625 forward (1626 likely first silver coins of second period).			
A	B	C	D
			
			
A) Ca. 1621-22 Cartagena RN assayer A. Sedwick TA6, 2009-10-15, lot 256. B) Ca. 1621-22 Cartagena RN assayer A. Sedwick TA8, 2010-10-21, lot 517. C) 1622 Cartagena RN assayer A. Sedwick TA12, 2012-09-30, 1184. D) 1626 Cartagena RN. Private collection Ex Delorme & Collin du Bocage, 2011-05-26, lot 301.			



Quiz Answers





Quiz 1: 1. Literally, Play Marker, actually, gaming counter. 2. L Bramsen, at the beginning of the 20th Century. 3. Playing cards. 4. John Law ("The Medals Concerning John Law and the Mississippi System," *ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs* #167).






Quiz 2: 1. 1914. 2. 1868. 3. 1906. 4. 1444 hasn't happened yet (2022-23).




Quiz 3: 1. Somalia. 2. Netherlands. 3. Cook Islands. 4. My three are: East Caribbean States, Egypt, Swaziland.


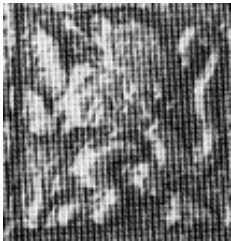


Picture Quiz A: Benedetto Pistrucci

Picture Quiz B: Self portrait of Leone Leoni after release from imprisonment on galleys. Bust surrounded by chains and manacles. The opposing side of the medal has an image of Andria Doria who arranged Leone's release from prison. Leone was a 16th sculptor known especially for his bronzes of Emperor Charles V and Philip II of Spain. CNG Auction 99, Lot: 1155, May 13, 2015.

Cartagena: Mouse Eared Lion as M45-10 The lion punch used during first period 1621-22 and at second period 1625 forward (1626 likely first silver coins of second period).	
A	B
	
	
A) ca 1629-30 Cartagena NR assayer E Ponterio sale 150, 2009-08-08, lot 9309. B) Restrepo M45-10 same coin Ponterio 133 lot 765.	

Cartagena: Flag Tail Lion as M45-15 The lion punch used 1629-34. Much variety in appearance but same basic design with large right hind leg. See also Baldwin's NYI 2009, 2009-01-07, lot 601.				
A	B	C	D	E
				
A) Restrepo 8R 1630 RNE UBS 55 lot 424. B) 1630 Cartagena RN E Heritage Weekly World and Ancient Coin Auction 231437, 2014-09-11, lot 62162. C) Cartagena Aureo auction 262, 2014-09-18, lot 1189. D) Cartagena RN E Sedwick TA12, 2012-09-30, lot 1186. E) Cartagena C assayer E Sedwick TA9, 2011-04-26, lot 1265.				

Cartagena: Reticulated leg Lion as M45-11 Like the Flag Tail Lion as M45-15 but with pronounced circular or crescent design in legs.	
A	B
	
	
A) 8R Restrepo M45-11. B) Cartagena RN E Aureo, 2011-03-17, lot 1196.	

Cartagena: 1655 Lion M48		
A	B	C
		
		
A) 1655 Cartagena Adams, E.H. 1874 lot 1186. Julius Guttag Collection. B) 1655 Cartagena C S Hans Schulman (Maravillas), 1974-12-02, lot 451. C) 1655 Cartagena C S Sedwick TA14, 2013-10-30, lot 458.		

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A Medal of the Abbey of Lambach

Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

I am always intrigued by obscure coins. In the catalogue of the Gerhard Hirsch Nachfolger Auction 308, held in Munich in February 2015, I noticed a 1/2 *Schautaler* of the Abbey of Lambach (Lot 3378), an issuer I had never come across.

Lambach Abbey is a Benedictine monastery in Lambach in Upper Austria, founded in 1046. Under the Abbot Placidus Hieber von Greifenfels (1640-78) it was rebuilt in the Baroque style.



This 1/2 Schautaler was struck to commemorate the completion of the new Baroque church in 1656, on the 600th anniversary of the founding of the monastery. Here is a detailed description:

Obv.: IN/MEMORIAM NOVAE DEDICATAE ECCLESIAE LAMBACENSIS/ DEDIT /PLACIDVS/ ABBAS/ I MA.OCTOB. **Rev.:** 3 shields with the arms of the abbey, the abbot and Markt Lambach over new church with 3 holy figures on the roof; below .M.DC.LVI. 33.3 mm. 11.51 g. Hippmann 17b. Slg. Horsky 4872. Schulthess-Rechberg 3072. Slg. Hohenkubin 329.

Placidus Hieber had an amazing career. Born Georg Hieber in 1615, he took the name Placidus after he entered the abbey of Lambach in 1631. He studied theology in Graz and Salzburg and became a deacon in 1638. He was named a prior of the abbey the same year. A year later, in December 1639, he was ordained as a priest and five months after that, in May 1640, he was elected Abbot. He was only 25.

Placidus threw himself into restoring the glory of the abbey, which had fallen on hard times after the first Ottoman invasion a century earlier when every abbey had had to contribute one third of revenues to the war effort. He erected a church tower in 1651 and in 1652 began rebuilding the old Gothic church in the new baroque style. One of the leading architects of the time, the Italian-Swiss Filiberto Lucchese, designed it and it was decorated by the best artists. It was largely completed in 1656—hence this medal—although Placidus' successors added further features. Placidus was re-elected Abbot in 1653, 1666 and 1667. In 1664 he was named Papal Nuncio. He served on the Emperor's council and numerous commissions and was frequently asked to arbitrate disputes.



The Abbey of Lambach was situated on the main highway crossing Upper Austria and Placidus entertained distinguished visitors on their travels. The most notable was the lavish reception on September 9, 1658 for Emperor Leopold I, on his way back from his coronation in Frankfurt.

Placidus was not so popular with many of his monks. He was more feared than loved; one chronicler judged him “durus et asper” (hard and rough). Many were critical of his luxurious lifestyle. After his glorious career Placidus came to a bad end. On Friday, September 9, 1678 he fell ill at dinner after eating an apple tart. He had been poisoned. His fellow diners recovered but he died three days later at the age of 63. The Master of the Kitchens, P. Ernest Fischer, whom Placidus had recently reprimanded, confessed to the crime. He was expelled from the Order and sent to be judged as a layman. He was beheaded on Nov. 29, 1678.

I do not know why Gerhard Hirsch called this medal a 1/2 Schautaler (or medallion Taler). It does not have the weight of a half Taler (about 14 g) or any other standard coin. It is simply a medal. Hippmann lists 3 varieties, all identical in design. One is fractionally smaller but heavier (32 mm, 12.1 g), one is struck in tin. Apparently this is the only medal or coin issued by the Abbey of Lambach.

References:

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Grüll, Georg. *Geschichte des Lambacher Klosterarchivs in Mitteilungen der Oberösterreichischen Landesarchivs*, Band I (Linz 1950 - available on internet).

Hippmann, Fritz R. *Münzen und Medaillen der Geistlichen und Weltlichen Herren in Oberösterreich* (Oberösterreichischer Musealverein - Gesellschaft für Landeskunde. available on internet).

Wikipedia. Placidus Hieber von Greifenfels & Stift Lambach

Lambach did feature again briefly in modern history. Adolf Hitler lived there between the ages of 7 and 9. He attended the monastery school and sang in the boys' choir where he would have seen the swastikas which appear in the carved woodwork. They had been put there by the Abbot Theoderich Hagn (1858-72) as a pun on his name which sounded like the German word for swastika, Hakenkreuz (literally hook cross). Years later Hitler would say the solemn pageantry of the high mass and other Catholic ceremonies was quite intoxicating and left a very deep impression. He idolized the priests and seriously considered becoming a priest himself. Unfortunately he ended up choosing a very different career.



...Continued from p. 69

Among the menagerie depicted on the Saeculares issues of Philip I is an elephant, as a hoped-for wish for the continued success of empire. Therefore its presence among some of the earliest issues of the Flavians may express the hope that their dynasty, born as a result of Civil War, would endure long enough to bring a period of peace to the empire.

The elephant depicted here has also a specific and immediate reference. The elephant represents one of the numerous species displayed in the newly constructed Flavian Amphitheater, or Colosseum, built by prisoners of the First Jewish War on the site of the Domus Aurea of Nero. Opened to the public during Titus' rule, in AD 80, and commemorated by Martial in *de Spectaculis*, the Colosseum was welcomed with great fanfare and games. During the opening ceremonies a great number of animals, including elephants, were both exhibited and slaughtered.



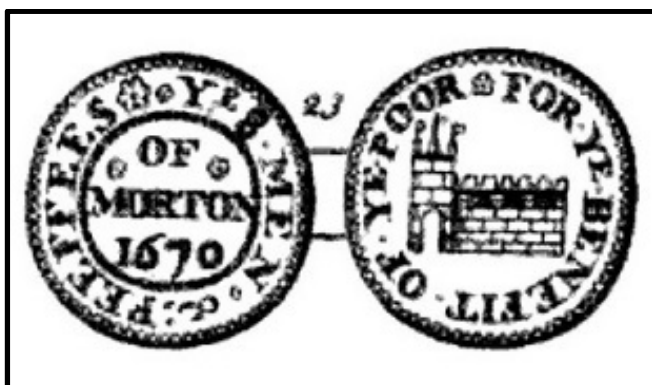
Titus. AD 79-81. AV Aureus (7.49g, 6h). Struck AD 80. Rome mint. Laureate head right / Elephant, wearing armor, standing left. RIC II 22a; Calicó 774a (same dies).



“The 8 Men and Feeffees of Morton”

C.D. Carson, NI #2636

In the older English-language numismatic literature, there is considerable discussion of the local small-change tokens which circulated during the reign of Charles II. The bulk of these are tradesmen’s pieces, but there are more than a few types struck by some local authority. Snelling’s *View of the Copper Coinage* (1766) refers to, at page 25, and illustrates, № 23 on plate 2, what appears to be a farthing token, bearing on the obverse (around) YE 8 MEN & FEEFFEES (in the field) OF MORTON 1670 ; on the reverse what appears to be a church, (around) FOR YE BENEFIT OF YE POOR.



While searching about to find who these “men and feoffees” might have been, and by what right they took it upon themselves to issue coinage with such a curious inscription, I came across the following passage, which seems to give the fullest account of the matter one can expect. It is found in a book of miscellany of rural life in the valley of the River Bovey, a tributary of the Teign, in Devonshire, the southwesternmost part of England (bordering on Cornwall). *Small Talk at Wreyland, Third Series* is the work of one Cecil Torr, published by the Cambridge University Press in 1923, and at page 15 we read:

There were Four Men of Chagford, Eight Men of Moreton, and other Men of other parish towns. In 1670, when small change was scarce, tokens were issued by the Moreton Men, inscribed, “Ye 8 Men and Feeffees of Morton.” As feoffees they held the parish lands in trust; and in 1756 the sole surviving Man enfeoffed thirteen new Men, and they agreed that if ‘by their mortality’ they should ever be reduced to one, this one should enfeoff not less than seven more; but the agreement was not kept, and the parish lands passed to the last survivor’s heir-at-law as sole trustee. These parish lands were the church-house, the school-house, the alms-house, two public-houses called the White Swan and the Sun, and a rent-charge of 6s. 8d. Like many other public-houses, the White Swan became the Union in 1801 in honour of the United Kingdom and the new Union Jack.

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